



ART CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
Presents

PURPOSE

An Exhibition of Paintings by
Ayibiowu Olusola E. David
(Founder ACS)
Featuring ACS Members

Medium:

Oil on Canvas,
Pastel,
Water Colour,
Mixed Media
& lots more.

Guests:

Melinda Akinlami
Channels Television

Chuka Nnabuife
The Nigerian Compass



Venue:

City Mall, Onikan, Lagos, Nigeria.

Date:

30th, Friday December, 2011.

Time:

12:00 noon (Opening Day)

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Arts

Visual Art

Nature inspires my art – Ogwo

Not many artists are as passionate about their art as Emenike Ogwo, a painter and documentary photographer. Agozino Agozino writes

THE artist, whose canvases are marked distinguishingly by expressive use of chunks of colour, says his creativity is largely influenced by his environment. The impasto paintings mark him out in a gallery crowd. The textures are rich and lavishly employed, while the hues are bright.

In the past five years, his Ajah, Lagos-based studio, has produced three successful solo exhibitions mounted in Nigeria and Europe.

Art has not only brought Ogwo creative fulfillment, it has also brought him joy. Meeting him recently buttressed this. Ogwo recalls how his artistic journey started, thus: 'Between 1988 and 1990, I was a student of the Federal Polytechnic, Oke, in Anambra State, where I obtained my Ordinary National Diploma (OND). I later had my Higher National Diploma (HND) in Auchi Polytechnic, specialising in painting after which I left for my mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 1996, before I decided to explore photography, then as a hobby, before finally channelling my energy into full-time studio artwork.'

The artist's last solo show at the National Museum, Onikan, Lagos, entitled *Fourth Dimension* showed the result of that full concentration in painting. His mastery of the use of colours was very evident. But he said becoming a full-time studio artist with things as they are currently in the country is not easy. He adds that it is not just by his own power but something he can only attribute to divine favour.

For the ever-smiling artist, there are many challenges that would have thwarted his dream to hug his brushes full. But for God, who knew his heart, saw him through. Recalling one of such, Ogwo cited the sudden death of his father. The setback it brought would have changed his course as the late father was one of his personal sources of inspiration as a creative person.

Today, however, Ogwo is not only a happy artist in Lagos, churning out works, he has equally participated in several art exhibitions. His works included those at the



Two of Ogwo's artworks

2010 Johannesburg Art Fair in South Africa, where his artworks were showcased in the Omenka Gallery to the delight of an international audience.

Ogwo informed that it was his late father, who impressed on him the value of the environment as a child. Ever since, the Ohafia Abia State-born artist has treasured that knowledge. To him, every serious artist must always draw from nature.

He is also very passionate about colours, and sums up the philosophy that guides his works, thus: 'Everybody enjoys a story or a picture because it excites us in one way or the other, and if it is well told, using the fewest and the best words, it is a work of art. But it is not work of art, if it is told clumsily.'

'A picture is work of art if it makes you think what the artist hoped you would think. It means that the lines and patches of colours forming the pictures must be of unmistakable meaning, giving you one idea only. Just like E.D. Moses stated: "There is art. There are stuffs that look like art. There are things that just look good. If you belong to the last two, you are in business." So, if I make use of reality, I transform it so that it is seen entirely through my imagination. I try to sell myself. I do it always because no one can sell you better than yourself. Your product is you,' Ogwo says.

He also acknowledges the role of certain individuals in his artistic life. One of these few Nigerians he will never forget is Prof. Jubril Aminu, who, as then minister of education, visited his school and encouraged him personally to be an artist after buying his painting. He traced his inspiration to the words of encouragement by Aminu.

'I grew up in Agbar. I represented my local government then in handwriting. Just to tell you that for a long time, the gift was there. But I was vacillating back and forth. But I remember that the change in my life's career came in one of the occasions when the minister

of education then, Prof. Jubril Aminu, encouraged me by paying N1,000, after I did a portrait of him. It was a big money then, and he said that he was encouraging me to go into art. Since then, I knew that I could make it in art. And those words never left me.'

He dubs himself an experimental artist, hinting that 'art is all about life and life is art...'

'One thing I know is, no artist should copy anyone. Always have a style of your own. I believe that it will not be easy, but with time, hard work and endurance, the artist will make it.'



Ogwo

Sola Ayibowu goes solo with Purpose

TOMORROW, an exhibition of recent paintings and drawings by Olusola David Ayibowu will open at the City Mall, Onikan, Lagos.

The show, scheduled to open by 12 noon, will showcase a collection of over 20 selected works from the stable of the Yaba College of Technology-trained painter. The title of the exhibition is *Purpose*, while the artist informed, during a chat recently, that *Purpose* is deliberately packaged to showcase his recent painting to the public.

'I felt the need to exhibit these works before the end of the year. Like a child, I got curious about the wild con-

temporary wind of change taking place in the art sector in Lagos,' he says.

'Not willing to be sidelined in the tide of things, I felt this opportunity to make a statement again.'

The artist also hinted that the show, which will go on display at City Mall, is simply a thanksgiving for the fulfilment that art has brought him, especially after his previous exhibition.

'Naturally, it was a sweet remembrance of my past that inspired this show. That is why I captured it in the theme of the exhibition, which is *Purpose*. It is just to show that life without purpose is nothing.'

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Shelley Akintola
Charmika Youngblood
Cecilia Nwankwili
The Nigerian Consulate

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